

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 10483 081705Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07  
NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-06 AID-05 CEA-01 FRB-01  
IO-13 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01  
AGRE-00 OMB-01 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02  
PRS-01 SS-15 FEA-01 INT-05 EPA-04 CEQ-01 OIC-02  
/176 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6088

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 10483

DEPT PASS MARAD, FMC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD TASK FCE ON THE COORDINATION OF POSSIBLE  
MEASURES AIMED AT RESOLVING THE WORLD OIL CARRIER  
SITUATION

REFS: A) STATE 67178; B) C(77)35

1. APRIL 4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DISCUSSED SEC  
GEN PROPOSAL TO CONVENE AD HOC MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL  
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CONSIDER INTRA-SECRETARIA-  
RIAT TASK FORCE REPORT (REF B) AND TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS  
ON HOW ITS RECOMMENDATIONS MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED. AFTER  
LENGTHY AND INCONCLUSIVE DEBATE, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DECIDED TO REFER PROPOSAL TO APRIL 19 COUNCIL MEETING  
FOR FINAL RESOLUTION. AT ISSUE WAS WHETHER INTRA-  
SECRETARIAT TASK FORCE REPORT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED  
FIRST BY COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE RELEVANT EXPERTISE,  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OECD P 10483 081705Z

(I.E., MARITIME TRANSPORT, SHIPBUILDING, ENVIRONMENT,  
AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS) OR DIRECTLY BY HIGH LEVEL GROUP.  
COUNTRIES FAVORING COMMITTEE STUDY FIRST WERE UK, FRG,  
NETHERLANDS, ITALY.

2. NORWAY, GREECE AND BELGIUM VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED A  
HIGH LEVEL AD HOC MEETING BY MID-MAY WHICH WOULD, INTER-

ALIA, AGREE ON BASIS OF RECOMMENDATION WHICH JUNE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL COULD ACT ON. CANADA, JAPAN, AND FRANCE UNENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED CREATION OF HIGH LEVEL GROUP. (FOR EXAMPLE, CANADIAN DEL SAID GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BAIL OUT TANKER OPERATORS WHO SPECULATED IN MARKET; JAPANESE DEL OBSERVED THAT REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE FAR REACHING AND REQUIRE CAREFUL STUDY IN APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES; FRENCH DEL SAID THAT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED TO MUST APPLY TO ALL OIL CARRIERS AND FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE). AS PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A, US DEL SAID WE CAN SUPPORT SECGEN'S PROPOSAL TO CONVENE AD HOC MEETING. WE DID NOT ADDRESS ISSUE OF TIMING OR WHETHER THIS SUBJECT BE CONSIDERED AT JUNE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. UK, SPAIN AND ITALY, HOWEVER, SAID THERE WAS TOO LITTLE TIME FOR A HIGH LEVEL GROUP TO STUDY AND REACH AGREEMENT ON A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COULD BE FORWARDED TO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.

3. NORWAY, GREECE AND BELGIUM ARGUED THAT URGENCY AND MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING WORLD OIL CARRIERS WARRANTED EARLY AD HOC MEETING, AND THAT REFERRING REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEES WOULD DELAY PROGRESS UNDULY. COUNTRIES OPPOSED CONTENTED THAT MULTI-FACETED PROBLEMS INVOLVING SEVERAL DIFFERENT MINISTRIES COULD NOT BE ADDRESSED ADEQUATELY BY ONE MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT EXPERTS. DEPUTY SECGEN WOOTTON MADE VIGOROUS APPEAL TO FIRST CONVENE HIGH LEVEL GROUP, STATING THAT IT COULD PROVIDE OVERALL GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION

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PAGE 03 OECD P 10483 081705Z

TO THE RELEVANT COMMITTEES.

4. COMMENT: AT THE APRIL 19 COUNCIL MEETING WE MAY FACE NOT ONLY THE ISSUE OF HOW AND WHERE TO HANDLE THE TASK FORCE REPORT, BUT ALSO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE NORWEGIAN EFFORT TO GET THE MATTER BEFORE THE JUNE MINISTERIAL. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE EXCOM DISCUSSION, WE DOUBT THAT THIS TIMING OR TREATMENT CAN BE AGREED. FURTHERMORE, WE DOUBT THAT THE MINISTERS SHOULD BE CONFRONTED WITH THE INTRICATE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE TASK FORCE REPORT DURING THEIR TWO-DAY MEETING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE WILL MAINTAIN THE POSITION SET FORTH IN REF A' IF WASHINGTON HAS ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO PROVIDE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT BY OPENING OF BUSINESS APRIL 18.

TURNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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